January \_\_, 2023

Title First Name Last Name

State House, Room #

Boston, MA 02133

#### RE: Support for “*HD3359,* *An Act relative to the compulsory automobile insurance limits.”*

Dear Representative Name,

I am writing you on behalf of as title of AGENCY NAME located in CITY/TOWN to request your support for***“HD3359,* *An Act relative to the compulsory automobile insurance limits,” filed by Representative Michael Finn****.* This bill would increase the compulsory bodily injury insurance limit for injury or death to one person from $20,000 to $50,000 and the limit for any one accident from $40,000 to $100,000. In addition, it would raise the compulsory property damage limit from $5,000 to $30,000.

**As healthcare costs have soared and automobiles have become more technologically advanced and expensive, the current liability limits have become obsolete**. While Massachusetts was the first state in the nation to implement compulsory insurance in 1927, our minimum bodily injury limits **haven’t been updated in over three decades**. Our $5,000 property damage limit, meanwhile, has not been updated since it was first set in 1975 (when the average cost of a new car was $4,950).

**The new limits proposed in this bill would come closer to approximating the high costs associated with serious accidents.** If a driver in an accident is at-fault and causes damage to multiple vehicles, you can see where $5,000 would not go very far. Similarly, $20,000 does not even come close to approximating the cost of medical care for even the relatively minor injuries. Our agents have seen countless examples of clients having to pay devastating medical and repair bills out of pocket that were not covered by the at-fault party’s basic policy. Our agents recognize the limitations posed by the current statutory minimums and typically recommend higher limits to protect their customers.

**The new limits would also bring Massachusetts in line with other states who have recently made similar adjustments.** Since 2017, nine states have raised their minimums to reflect this reality. The Commonwealth has also tacitly acknowledged the increased costs of vehicle repairs when it made Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) such as UBER and LYFT provide $30,000 in property damage coverage during the time when the TNC driver is logged into the app and is available to accept passengers, but has not been summoned yet.

Simply put, these new limits would update Massachusetts’s antiquated limits, ensure appropriate coverage for all Massachusetts drivers, and better protect accident victims from the crippling financial consequences of inadequate coverage. We ask you please consider co-sponsoring this important legislation, and we thank you for your support of local agents and consumers across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

NAME

TITLE